

REMARKS

Entry of the present supplemental amendment after filing of an amendment on December 5, 2005 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are presently active in this case. The present supplemental amendment amends Claims 1, 3, 8, 15, 17-20 without introducing any new matter.

The Office Action of June 6, 2005 rejected Claims 1-7, 15-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. Claims 3-7, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nounin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,469, herein "Nounin"). Claims 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nounin in view of Ohno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,715, herein "Ohno").

The Advisory Action of October 25, 2005 maintained the rejection of Claims 1-7, 15-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and the rejection of Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

An amendment was filed together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), responding to the outstanding objections and the rejections of the June 6, 2005 final Office Action.

In response to the interview held on December 5, 2005 between Examiners Nawaz and Barot and Applicants' representative, independent Claim 1 is herewith amended for further clarification, to recite that the packet relay device is located in the first sub-network, as discussed during the interview. Independent Claims 3, 8, 15, 17-20 are amended accordingly, and are also amended to replace the term "containing" with "including." Since the changes are only formal in nature or are supported by Applicants' disclosure as originally


filed, for example in Figure 12, the changes are not believed to raise a question on new matter.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-3 and 5-20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423